

Mid-East Prophecy Update – February 27th, 2011

- Every week, we set aside a few minutes on Sunday mornings to look at Bible prophecy
- The reason for this is because the Bible predicts certain events that will take place in the last days before the Lord returns.
- We believe that what's happening in the world today is a fulfillment of those Bible Prophecies.

- We look primarily at events in the Middle East, specifically related to Israel because, as it's been said; "Israel is God's prophetic clock."

- Today's update, unlike any that I can remember, was perhaps one of the most difficult, if not "the" most difficult that I've ever prepared.
- While I'm unable to pinpoint any one reason as to why, I have a sneaking suspicion it has to do with all that's happening in the world.
- Perhaps you'll indulge me for just a few moments as I candidly share why I believe that the rapture of the church is unexpectedly close.

- In order to do this, I'm going to go through a list which contains the main reasons that the Bride of Jesus Christ should be watching.
- Now, let me preface this list by saying what I will never tire of saying; don't take my word for it, be a Berean and search the scriptures.
- Also, this list is in no way exhaustive in the sense that time simply does not permit me to present an extensive list of all the reasons.

I believe the rapture of the church is extremely close because...

1. The Middle-East is on the cusp of a nuclear attack against Israel to destroy them as a nation. (Psalm 83, Isaiah 17&19, Ezekiel 38-39)
2. Like dominoes, the toppling of world leaders is creating the perfect prophetic storm for the Anti-Christ's global governance. (Daniel 11)
3. The collapsing of the world's economies is putting the prophetic puzzle pieces together for cashless commerce. (Revelation 13:16-18)
4. We see earthquakes increasing in frequency and intensity, different places on earth, like Christchurch and Oahu. (Matthew 24:7)
5. Sadly, our world, and our beloved State of Hawaii, is now becoming like it was in the days of Sodom and Gomorrah. (Luke 17:28-32)

- I am keenly aware that what I'm about to say will be perceived as very strong, however, the fact of the matter is that it's very true!
- "The Bridegroom is coming as a thief in the night to rapture His bride, and the reality is, some professing Christians will be left behind."
- There are people here on this Island who dress like Christians, go to church like Christians even talk like Christians, but they're not!

Matthew 25:1-13 NIV "At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. (2) Five of them were foolish and five were wise. (3) The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. (4) The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. (5) The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. (6) "At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' (7) "Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. (8) The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.' (9) "'No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.' (10) "But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. (11) "Later the others also came. 'Sir! Sir!' they said. 'Open the door for us!' (12) "But he replied, 'I tell you the truth, I don't know you.' (13) "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour."

Vs. 1-2	The brides	The church
Vs. 1-2	The Bridegroom	Jesus Christ
Vs. 3-4	The Oil	The Holy Spirit
Vs. 5-6	The midnight cry	The rapture
Vs. 7-10	The ready went	Those born again
Vs. 11-12	The others left	Those not born again
Vs. 12	The truth	Jesus knew them not
Vs. 13	The warning	Keep watching

Dave Hunt- Opinions about the Rapture do not affect salvation—but we should seek to understand what the Bible says. The early church was clearly expecting Christ at any moment. To be watching and waiting for Christ if Antichrist must appear first would be like expecting Christmas before Thanksgiving. Yet Christ exhorted, "Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh ...Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all. Watch" (*Matthew 25:13: Mark 13:36-37*).